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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) 25X1 REPORT NO.

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 15 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. At 3:05 p.m. on 13 December 1951, there was intensive flying at Koethen airfield during clear and sunny weather. Aircraft observed at the field included 14 swept-back jet fighters, 3 single-engine planes, and 1 large passenger plane. (1) The following take-offs and landings were observed:

Time	Take-Off	Landing
3:05 p.m.	1 swept-back jet fighter	
3:07 "	1 swept-back jet fighter	
3:14 "	1 single-engine plane	
3:20 "	1 single-engine plane	
3:21 "	1 swept-back jet fighter	

3:10 "
3:13 "
3:14 "
3:17 "
3:25 "
3:26 "

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Time	Landing
3:30 p.m.	1 swept-back jet fighter with a red three-digit number and fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks

3:31 "	1 swept-back jet fighter and fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks
3:36 "	1 swept-back jet fighter
3:37 "	1 swept-back jet fighter
3:37 "	1 swept-back jet fighter
3:43 "	1 single-engine plane

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<u>Time</u>	<u>Landing</u>
3:40 p.m.	1 swept-back jet fighter
3:50 "	1 swept-back jet fighter
3:56 "	1 swept-back jet fighter. (2)

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2.

3. At 3:50 p.m. on 18 December, hangar 1 was closed. Seven swept-back jet fighter and four single-engine planes were parked in front of hangar 2. There was no flying. Fuel was apparently being transferred from four railroad tank cars on the spur track to the fuel dump. One tank car was observed on the adjacent siding. (3) Three large containers about the size of railroad tank cars were next to an excavation. [redacted] at the field was unusually intensive.

4. [redacted] tion was declared off limits twice during the last four weeks for periods of two weeks and one week respectively to all German civilians, including firemen and charwomen employed at the field. (4)

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5. On 19 December, aircraft observed at the field included 25 jet fighters parked in front of the two open hangars, west of Baasdorfer Strasse and 10 twin-engine planes parked in front of the flight control building on the northern edge of the installation. (5) The in-line engines of the latter planes were mounted in the wings and extended almost as far as the front of the full-view cockpits. About 1 p.m., two twin-engine planes were flying over Koethen. After 1:30 p.m., two other twin-engine planes took off at intervals of 15 minutes. (6)

Comments.

- (1) According to available information, Koethen airfield, on 13 December 1951, was occupied by two newly activated fighter regiments equipped with MiG-15s and an unidentified unit equipped with single-engine aircraft. The latter unit arrived from Strausberg on 17 and 18 November 1951. [redacted] The presence of a large passenger plane is possibly connected with the higher headquarters of the two fighter regiments mentioned above. As these regiments are apparently not yet up to full strength, the passenger plane may have transported personnel.
- (2) Aircraft [redacted] were observed at Merseburg airfield on 21 December 1951. This indicates that one of the two newly activated fighter regiments moved from Koethen to Merseburg on 15 December 1951 as reported by other sources. [redacted]
- (3) The fuel dump is located at the northeastern edge of the installation. The dispatch of rail fuel shipments to Koethen has not been confirmed [redacted]
- (4) These security measures may be connected with the various changes in the occupation of the field effected between mid-November and mid-December 1951.
- (5) The high number of jet fighters is reported for the first time after the reoccupation of the field and requires confirmation. On the day of observation, only one regiment equipped with MiG-15s was stationed at the field. Reports from other sources indicate that this regiment was not yet equipped with such a large number of aircraft. The maximum of MiG-15s observed by another source after 15 December 1951 was ten.
- (6) From the description given it is believed that the twin-engine aircraft are Pe-2s which may have made intermediate landings at the field. The assignment of these aircraft has not been determined.

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